UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,567	12/12/2003	Horst Rossler	Q78815	8602

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EXAMINER
BROOKS, SHANNON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2617	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/28/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 January 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 December 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

  a)☒ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

   1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments filed 1/2/08 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

Crockett is discussing a communication system that utilizes an intelligent location agent to

provide, on demand, the current locations of one or more remote location devices as well as sets

of past locations of the devices.

Crockett discusses a method for coordinating location dependent information, services, or tasks,

comprising the steps of deriving and refining location information of at least one user based on

location measurements or proximity observations. Crockett discusses tracking a remote device

to within 10 yards outside of a park gate, setting multiple boundaries around a physician's office

to track a sales force, or setting boundaries around a job site to monitor time spent at each site.

Location information can be refined by a client who may change location specifications.

Therefore Crockett reads on the claim limitation of "deriving and refining location information

of at least one user based on location measurements (such as a historical set of locations) or

proximity observations." Note that the claim language of Claim 1 specifies gathering location

measurements **or** proximity observations. Crockett teaches location measurements **and**

proximity observations, although not required to by the claim language. Crockett discusses

providing location information of said at least one user. Crockett discusses detecting the current

location of remote devices as well as sets of past locations of the devices to a client. Therefore

Crockett reads on the argued claim limitation of "providing location information of said at least

one user." Crockett discusses initiating tasks. Crockett discusses service initiated tasks from a

user, a computer system that is capable of initiating tasks, system initiated communication

modes, and remote device initiated calls. Therefore, Crockett clearly reads on the argued claim

limitation of "initiating tasks". Crockett discusses providing information, or services dependent

on said location information, by a locator entity in a distributed system gathering said location

measurements or proximity observations and aggregating said location information of said of at

least one user. Crockett teaches providing information, or services dependent on said location

information in discussing a communication system that utilizes an intelligent location agent to

provide, on demand, the current locations of one or more remote location devices as well as sets

of past locations of the devices. Crockett teaches a distributed system in teaching that the

computer system may be distributed across multiple physical locations. Crockett teaches

proximity locations as previously discussed. Crockett teaches aggregating location information

in teaching retuning sets of past locations of devices, recording events for later download to the

client, and recording a new location and time if the location is at least 25 yards from the most

recent recorded location. Therefore, Crockett clearly teaches "providing information, or services

dependent on said location information, by a locator entity in a distributed system gathering said

location measurements or proximity observations and aggregating said location information of

said of at least one user." Crockett discusses said locator entity restricting the accesses to said

location information by further comprising the steps of authenticating and authorizing or trusting

inquirer parties. Crockett teaches identifying client users through account numbers and

passwords, verifying account status, specifying which operators are allowed access to which

data. Therefore, Crockett reads on the argued claim limitation of 'restricting the accesses to said location information by further comprising the steps of authenticating and authorizing or trusting inquirer parties." Crockett discusses serving location information requests according to inquirer's grants wherein said grants depend on the relative location or absolute location of an inquirer or a user, an inquirer's identity, an inquirer's intention, a user's intention, time, or an information exchange contract. Specifically Crockett teaches grants depending on identification of the client through account number and password. Therefore, Crockett reads on the argued claim limitation of "serving location information requests according to inquirer's grants wherein said grants depend on the relative location or absolute location of an inquirer or a user, an inquirer's identity, an inquirer's intention, a user's intention, time, or an information exchange contract."

Additionally, the Applicant argues that Crockett does not disclose a uniform network interface for detecting devices feeding location information. However, Crockett teaches a client interface through which past histories of devices can be requested and returned through automated voice response, a call center staffed by humans, or a website. Therefore Crockett clearly discloses "a uniform network interface for detecting devices feeding location information." Crockett also discusses a locator device providing a network interface to a locator agent unit's investigation means for identifying and coordinating location information sources or inquirers' and other parties' clients. Crockett teaches a client that may set parameters coordinating and controlling with the client user, the intelligent agents behavior such as, recording at fixed times or intervals or when movement exceeds a specified distance or a named location Therefore, Crockett clearly reads on "a locator device providing a network interface to a locator agent unit's investigation

means for identifying and coordinating location information sources or inquirers' and other

parties' clients". The Applicant argues that Crockett does not disclose a personalized locator

agent unit. However, as previously discussed, the intelligent agent's behavior such as, recording

at fixed times or intervals or when movement exceeds a specified distance or a named location

can be controlled and coordinated through the client. Therefore, Crockett clearly teaches "a

personalized locator agent unit".

The applicant argues that Claims 2-8, 10-14, and 18 should be allowable due to their

dependencies on claim 1 and 9. However, Crockett is an exemplary reference from a relevant

subclass that clearly reads on the argued limitations above and on the limitations in the claims as

set forth in the following office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   **Claims 1-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Crockett (US 2002/0042278 A1).

Consider **Claim 1**, Crockett teaches a method for coordinating location dependent information, services, or tasks, comprising the steps of deriving and refining location information of at least one user based on location measurements or proximity observations (Pg. 1, [0009]-[0011], providing location information of said at least one user (Abstract and Pg. 1, [0009]), initiating tasks (Pg. 1, [0009]), providing information, or services dependent on said location information (Abstract), by a locator entity in a distributed system gathering said location measurements or proximity observations and aggregating said location information of said of at least one user (Pg. 3, [0069]-[0077] and Abstract), said locator entity restricting the accesses to said location information by further comprising the steps of authenticating and authorizing or trusting inquirer parties (Pg. 4, [0106], Pg. 6, [0161]-[0173], Pg. 7, [0194] and Pg. 8, [0196]), and serving location information requests according to inquirer's grants wherein said grants depend on the relative location or absolute location of an inquirer or a user (Pg. 8, [0205]-[0210], Pg. 9, [0211]-[0214]), an inquirer's identity, an inquirer's intention, a user's intention, time, or an information exchange contract (Pg. 4, [0106]).

Consider **Claim 9**, Crockett teaches a Locator Agent Unit for coordinating location dependent information, services, or tasks comprising locating means for receiving and/or deriving location information and providing location information and comprising means for initiating tasks or services dependent on the derived location information (Pg. 8, [0205]-[0210] and Pg. 9, [0211]-[0214]) comprising a uniform networking interface for detecting devices feeding location information (Pg. 4, [0101]-[0106]), enabling communication with inquirers' and other parties' client (Abstract), and allowing controlling the locator agent unit , wherein said locator agent unit comprises investigation means for identifying and coordinating location

information sources or inquirers' and other parties' clients (Pg. 8, [0205]-[0210] and Pg. 9,

[0211]-[0214]).

  Consider **Claim 15**, Crockett teaches a Locator Device for coordinating location

dependent information, services, and tasks, providing location measurements and proximity

observations of a user, wherein said locator device provides a network interface to a locator

agent unit's investigation means for identifying and coordinating location information sources or

inquirers' and other parties' clients (Pg. 4, [0108]-[0112], Pg. 5, [0113]-[0128]).

  Consider **Claim 16**, Crockett teaches a Locator Client Device for exchanging location dependent

information or coordinating location dependent services or tasks by comprising communication

means for communicating requests and location dependent information wherein said locator

client device comprises a network interface to a locator agent units's investigation means for

identifying and coordinating location information sources or inquirers' and other parties' clients

(Pg. 4, [0092]-[0112], Pg. 5, [0113]-[0129]).

  Consider **Claim 17**, Crockett teaches a Distributed Locator System (Pg. 2, [0029]) for providing

coordinated location information dependent information, services, or tasks (Abstract),

comprising a network (Pg. 2, [0029] and Figure) and locator agent units providing a uniform

location information interface (Pg. 8, [0205]-[0206]), wherein a personalized locator agent unit is

located in the distributed locator system dependent on said location information (Pg. 2, [0017]-

[0018]).

Consider **Claim 2**, Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said location

information is encrypted (for ensuring privacy) (Pg. 6, [0153]-[0173]).

Consider **Claim 3,** Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein for said

authenticating and authorizing or trusting cryptography techniques are applied (Pg. 6, [0153]-

[0173]).

Consider **Claim 4**, Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein the method

comprises the further step of investigating said distributed system for identifying and

coordinating location information sources or inquirers' and other parties' clients ((Pg. 6, [0153]-

[0173] and Pg. 4, [0099]-[0100]).

Consider **Claim 5**, Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said provided

location information further comprises tracking information or planned location information (Pg.

4, [0100]).

Consider **Claim 6**, Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein said location

information is a fusion of multiple location measurements or multiple proximity observations

improving the location precision and reliability (Pg. 4, [0100] and Pg. 8, [0209]-[0210] and Pg.

9, [0211]-[0214]).

Consider **Claim 7**, Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step

of pro active involving a user or another party dependent on location, time, or contextual user

preferences (read as use at park, Pg. 9, [0214]).

Consider **Claim 8**, Crockett teaches the method according to claim 1, further comprising the step

of specifying the behavior of the locator entity or inquirer's grants by an authenticated and

authorized party (Pg. 4, [0106].

Consider **Claim 10**, Crockett teaches the Locator Agent Unit according to claim 9, comprising a

map unit for collecting location information from said sources, aggregating said location

information onto a virtual map (LocMod), and organization means for coordinating location

dependent information, services, or tasks dependent on said aggregated location and depend on

the relative location or absolute location of a inquirer or a user, an inquirer's identity, an

inquirer's intention, a user's intention, time, or an information exchange contract (read as system

storing boundaries Pg. 9, [0214]-[0217] and Pg. 4, [0106]).

Consider **Claim 11**, Crockett teaches the Locator Agent Unit according to claim 9, further

comprising means for authenticating and authorizing client devices or inquirers (read as

determine a device is within a boundary, Pg. 10, [0226]-[0227]).

Consider **Claim 12**, Crockett teaches the Locator Agent Unit according to claim 9, wherein said

locator agent unit further comprises means for location information encryption and decryption

for ensuring privacy (read as utilizes encrypted devices, (pg. 6, [0161]-[0173] and Pg. 8, [0205]).

Consider **Claim 13**, Crockett teaches The Locator Agent Unit according to claim 9, wherein said

locator agent unit is realized by a network service (Pg. 8, [0205]).

Consider **Claim 14**, Crockett teaches the Locator Agent Unit according to claim 12, wherein said

network service is realized by an Internet service (Pg. 2, [0021]-[0030]).

Consider **Claim 18**, Crockett teaches a Computer Software Product for coordinating location

dependent information, services, and tasks comprising computer program means for performing

the method according to claim 1 (Pg. 2, [0029]and [0040], Pg. 3, [0052]-[0053]).

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to** (571) 273-8300 **or mailed to**:

>   Commissioner for Patents

>   P.O. Box 1450

>   Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

>   **Hand-delivered responses** should be brought to

>   Customer Service Window

>   Randolph Building

>   401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Shannon Brooks whose telephone number is (571) 270-1115.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick

Corsaro can be reached on (571) 272-7876. The fax phone number for the organization where

this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shannon R. Brooks

/Shannon R. Brooks/

Examiner, Art Unit 2617

March 22, 2008

/Nick Corsaro/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4181